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Life goes on

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Be
an
Organ
Donor



George H. Ryan
Secretary of State

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Dear Friend:

Currently, thousands of people in Illinois and around the country are in need of an organ or tissue transplant. Without it, many will die.

But you can help. Through organ and tissue donation, life goes on.

Becoming a donor is simple. Anyone can be considered for donation. This brochure tells you how and answers common questions about the subject.



Most importantly, tell your family members of your wishes. Hospitals always require next-of-kin consent before donation can occur.

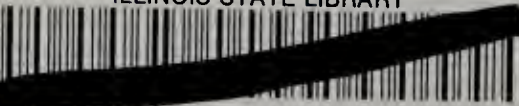
Please think about organ and tissue donation. Your decision could give someone the gift of a lifetime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George H. Ryan". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

George H. Ryan
Secretary of State

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The Facts About Organ/Tissue Donation

Who can be a donor?

Anyone, regardless of age, race, or gender can become an organ and tissue donor. If you are under the age of 18, you must have consent of a parent or legal guardian.



“When I first got the call that a donor had been found, I wasn’t nervous or scared — I was relieved. There were times before my double lung transplant when I wasn’t sure if I would make it. Now I can even pick my son up and read to him.”

CATHERINE URISH

Double lung transplant recipient

Broadwell, Illinois

How do I become a donor?

It’s as easy as 1-2-3.

1. **Tell your family.** Hospitals require next-of-kin consent before organ/tissue donation can occur.
2. Sign the back of your Illinois driver’s license or ID card with a ballpoint pen. Sign directly on the plastic. It must be witnessed and signed by two people, preferably family members.
3. Participate in the organ/tissue donor registry when you visit a Driver Services facility, or contact the Secretary of State’s office at 217/785-1444.

Are organ/tissue transplants considered experimental medical procedures?

Transplants are not experimental. They are long-established, routine life-saving practices undertaken in the country’s best medical centers.

How are recipients selected?

The National Transplant Act of 1984 established full and equal access to donated organs and tissues for all potential recipients. A national computer system matches gifts to receivers on the basis of need and availability.

Is there any cost or payment for organ/tissue donation?

No. Donor families are never charged, nor will they receive any payment or compensation.

Does organ/tissue donation affect funeral practices?

Organ/tissue donation does not alter the appearance of the body. Families may make any funeral or burial arrangements.

Is there a conflict between using my organs/tissues and saving my life?

No. Donation is not considered until all efforts to save a person have failed.

What organs/tissues can be donated?

Among the organs/tissues that can be donated are: cornea, kidney, heart, lung, liver, pancreas, bone and bone marrow.

What if I decide to become a donor after I receive my license?

You may become an organ/tissue donor at any time. Simply follow the steps outlined in this brochure under "How do I become a donor?".

What if I change my mind about being a donor?

All you have to do is write void in ballpoint pen across the donor card.

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Life goes on Be an Organ Donor

Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry

To join the Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry, simply fill out this card. Please share your decision with your family members.

I hereby request that my driver's license/ID card record reflect my wish to participate in the Secretary of State's organ/tissue donor registry.

Name:	_____
Street Address:	_____
City, State, Zip:	_____
Driver's License or ID Card Number:	_____
Signature:	_____

☐ I do not wish to participate at this time, but would like additional information.

Place
stamp
here

George H. Ryan
Secretary of State
2701 S. Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois 62723-0001

Donor Registry

What is the organ/tissue donor registry?

The registry is a computerized database that documents your intention to become an organ/tissue donor following your death. All information is confidential.

How do I join the registry?

When you visit the Driver Services facility, you will be asked if you intend to be an organ/tissue donor and would like to join the registry. Your response is entered on your record. To register by mail, complete and return the attached response card. To register by phone, call the Secretary of State's office at 217/785-1444.



"The pain of our son's tragic death was slow to leave, but we were comforted in the knowledge that others were given the gift of life because of what he could give them."

JIM & JANE REID

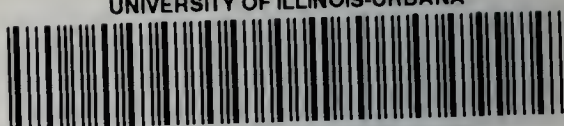
Arlington Heights, Illinois

What if I change my mind?

Contact the Secretary of State's office at 217/785-1444 to add or remove your name from the registry.

Does the registry replace the donor card on the back of my driver's license or ID card?

No. You should still sign the donor card and have it witnessed and signed by two people, preferably family members. Most importantly, discuss your intention to be an organ/tissue donor with your family.



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The Urgent Need For Donors

Each day, eight to 10 people in the United States die while waiting for a transplant.

Every 30 minutes, another person is added to the waiting list for organ transplants.

In Illinois, more than 1,700 people need a life-saving transplant. Nationally, the number increases to more than 32,000.

And every day, medical technology makes more and more successful transplants possible. Last year alone, thousands of people in Illinois received life-saving, life-enriching organ transplants that allowed them to live more productive, healthier, and longer lives.

For more information on the Secretary of State's Organ Donor Awareness Program, please contact:

Secretary of State George Ryan
Organ Donor Awareness Program
2701 S. Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62723
217/785-1444



"Each day, we celebrate a whole new world because of Quinn's heart transplant."

CHAD, THERESA AND
QUINN KYLES

Chicago, Illinois